

Research to Practice Transit Symposium

October 28–30, 2025



Hosted by:



As the transit industry is experiencing significant changes (e.g., new technologies, potential funding shortage) in recent years, the symposium provides a platform where transit experts share insights on how evidence-based research is being or can be, used to make the most of these opportunities in a dynamic environment. This year's symposium will focus on the following topics:

- AI in Transit
- Federal Transit Innovations
- High-speed rail
- Rural Transit
- Intercity Bus Systems
- Microtransit and Paratransit State of Practice

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day 1 Tuesday, October 28		
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM (PST)	Opening	Presenter: • Chad Riding
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM (PST)	Keynote	Presenter: • Andrew McCurran Moderator: Brendon Hemily
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM (PST)	Break	
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM (PST)	Performance Metrics	Presenters: • Dr. Celeste Chavis • Hunter Owens Moderator: Greg Newmark
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (PST)	Break	
11:15 AM - 12:45 PM (PST)	Abstract Session and Panel Discussion on Transit Fare Policy and Planning	Presenters: • Javad Esmailpour • Dr. Reza Mahmoudi • Dr. Bogdan Kapatsila • Mariel Kirshen Moderator: John Andoh
12:45 PM - 1:00 PM (PST)	Closing	Presenter: • Chad Riding

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day 2 | Wednesday, October 29

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM (PST)

Welcome

Presenter:

- Chad Riding

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM (PST)

High-Speed Rail

Presenters:

- Dr. Zhenhua Chen
- Dr. Greg Erhardt
- Dr. Greg Macfarlane

Moderator: Chad Riding

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM (PST)

Break

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM (PST)

Rural Transit

Presenters:

- David Kack
- Kevin Chambers
- Natalie Amberg with
Calli Cenizal

Moderator: Dr. Hilary Nixon

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (PST)

Break

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM (PST)

Intercity Bus Networks

Presenters:

- Nina Stocker
- John Andoh
- Zach Trogon

Moderator: Dr. Joe Schwieterman

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM (PST)

Break

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (PST)

Microtransit and Paratransit

Presenters:

- Dr. Eleni Bardaka
- Dr. Michael Hyland
- Dr. Jarice Rodriguez

Moderator: Joanna Xiao

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM (PST)

Closing

Presenter:

- Chad Riding

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day 3 | Thursday, October 30

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM (PST) **Welcome**

Presenter:

- Chad Riding

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM (PST) **Keynote**

Presenters:

- Dr. Karen Philbrick

Moderator: Chad Riding

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM (PST) **Break**

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM (PST) **A.I. in Transit**

Presenters:

- Renee Autumn Ray
- Dr. Diego Silva
- Dr. Jacob Yan

Moderator: Dr. Mina Rezaei

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (PST) **Break**

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM (PST) **Green Transportation in Rural Settings**

Presenters:

- Moses Stites
- Jerome Qirazi
- Rachel Heckl
- Gloria Huerta

Moderator: Chad Riding

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM (PST) **Break**

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM (PST) **Panel Discussion: Automated Transit Shuttles**

Presenters:

- Carol Schweiger
- Angie Williams
- Dr. Pruthvi Manjunatha

Moderator: Brendon Hemily

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (PST) **Symposium Closing Remarks**

Presenter:

- Chad Riding

SESSION SPEAKERS



Andrew McCurran

Director of Strategic Planning & Policy
Translink

Andrew McCurran is Director of Strategic Planning & Policy at TransLink, the regional transportation authority for Metro Vancouver, where he has worked for 17 years. He leads teams responsible for: developing the region's long-term transportation strategy and key policy direction; supporting complex decision-making processes; leading TransLink's 10-year Investment Plans and associated funding strategy; and prototyping and piloting new transportation technologies and business models especially related to the convergence of automation, digital connectivity, electrification, and shared mobility. His previous roles at TransLink included work on streets planning, bicycle planning, transit facility design, and transit-oriented community planning.



Angie D. Williams

Director of U2C Programs
Jacksonville Transportation Authority/ Automation & Innovation Department

Angie D. Williams is a visionary executive leader with over 30 years of experience in engineering, operations, and public infrastructure. She currently serves as the Director of the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C) Program at the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), where she leads the implementation of transformative capital projects that integrate autonomous vehicle (AV) technology into Jacksonville's urban transit system.

In her role, Angie provides both tactical and technical leadership to JTA's Automation and Innovation Division. She oversees the Bay Street Innovation Corridor (BSIC)—a 3+ mile controlled-speed AV service that will connect the existing Skyway system to Jacksonville's new sports and entertainment district, with revenue service launching in 2025.

Angie's career spans leadership roles at several Fortune 50 companies, including Boeing Commercial Airplane Company, Anheuser-Busch, and the Florida Department of Transportation. At Anheuser-Busch, she made history as the first woman to lead a major operations division at the Jacksonville Brewery, managing a \$138 million budget and a workforce of over 400 employees.

She is also the President and Owner of Williams & Williams General Contractors, a bonded and insured firm with a \$1.4 million bonding capacity and \$2 million in liability coverage. Her firm has delivered capital projects across government, commercial, and residential sectors.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Dr. Bogdan Kapatsila

*Assistant Professor in the School of Planning and Public Affairs
University of Iowa*

Dr. Bogdan Kapatsila is an Assistant Professor in the School of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Iowa. Bogdan's research is primarily concerned with the efficiency of transportation systems, particularly how land use, built environment, technology, and transport policy influence people's travel behavior and impact their well-being. Bogdan has worked in academic, private, and public sector settings at the local, regional, state, and international levels on travel satisfaction, transit safety, transit electrification, technological innovation, micromobility, and transport impact assessment. The underlying goal of Bogdan's research is to inform effective transport policies that have low environmental impact, promote health, and allow people to reach their full potential.



Calli Cenizal

*Principal Consultant
RebelGroup*

Calli Cenizal is a Principal at Rebel Group and specializes in open-loop fare payment systems and transit technology modernization. With over fifteen years of experience in mobility innovation and project implementation, she is passionate about how seamless mobility can reduce barriers to access. She plays a key role in the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP), where she supports transit agencies across the state in implementing interoperable, tap-to-pay systems that align with global standards. Her work spans stakeholder engagement, procurement strategy, and implementation support. Prior to joining Rebel, she was the Head of Transit & University Partnerships at Lyft, leading the teams responsible for designing, implementing, and evaluating 300+ on-demand mobility programs across North America. She holds a Master in City Planning degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Carol Schweiger

President

Schweiger Consulting LLC

Carol Schweiger, President of Schweiger Consulting, has over 45 years of experience, and is nationally and internationally recognized in transportation technology consulting. Her expertise is in several areas including systems engineering, technology strategies for public agencies, public transit technology, traveler information strategies and systems, and equity as it relates to ITS. Ms. Schweiger has provided over 80 transportation agencies with a wide variety of technology technical assistance. Carol is the immediate past Co-Chair of the TRB Standing Committee on Innovative Public Transportation Services and Technologies and serves as a volunteer on several other industry committees. She was awarded the 2022 Woman of the Year by WTS Rhode Island. She has an M.S. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University and B.S. in Mathematics from Tufts University.



Dr. Celeste Chavis

Chair and Professor of Transportation & Urban Infrastructure Studies and Civil Engineering

Morgan State University

Dr. Celeste Chavis, professor, is jointly appointed in the Departments of Transportation & Urban Infrastructure Studies and Civil Engineering at Morgan State University. She is currently serving as Chair for the Department of Transportation and Urban Infrastructure studies. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy (2012) and Masters (2008) in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, a Bachelors of Science (2007) from the Ohio State University, and is a licensed Professional Engineer (since 2016) in the State of Maryland. Since joining Morgan in 2013, Dr. Chavis has been PI or co-PI in research awards totaling nearly \$14 million. Her research focuses on transportation operations, safety, and performance metrics for multimodal transportation systems through an equity lens. Recent work includes topics on food access, public transit operations, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and travel behavioral modeling. Dr. Chavis is active in her local and professional community. She recently co-chaired Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's Transportation and Infrastructure Transition Committee, is Vice Chair of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance executive board, and serves on two Transportation Research Board Committees – Equity in Transportation and Bicycle Transportation.

SESSION SPEAKERS



David Kack

Executive Director

Montana State University (MSU) Western Transportation Institute

David Kack is the Program Manager for Mobility and Public Transportation at the Western Transportation Institute/Montana State University, where he has worked since 2001. David has twenty-five years of public / private sector transportation design, research, and operations experience, and in addition to helping start three transit systems in Montana, including Bozeman's Streamline and Big Sky's Skyline systems, Mr. Kack also conducted intercity bus service studies in Montana and Wyoming. In addition to his work with public transportation, David has a passion for improving the safety of all who use the nation's transportation systems.



Dr. Diego Silva

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Toronto

Dr. Diego Silva is a Postdoctoral Fellow associated with the Transit Analytics Lab (TAL) at the University of Toronto. He received a PhD in Computer Science, and his work addresses using computational science to enhance public transportation planning and operations. Dr. Silva has a diverse professional history in the private sector, and experience in data architecture, systems design, and project management in a variety of industry sectors.



Dr. Eleni Bardaka

Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering

North Carolina State University

Dr. Eleni Bardaka is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University. Her work focuses on two main research areas: (i) the study of the causal, spatiotemporal, socioeconomic impacts of transportation investments and policies; and (ii) the analysis of aggregate and individual travel demand, preferences, and needs related to public transportation systems and emerging smart mobility systems. In her research, she uses quasi-experimental methods, spatial analysis, and econometric modeling. Dr. Bardaka holds a Ph.D. and M.S. degree in Transportation Engineering and an M.S. degree in Economics from Purdue University. She earned a five-year diploma in Civil Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens in Greece.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Gloria Huerta

Chief Operating Officer
Miocar

Gloria Huerta, Míocar's Chief Operating Officer, has been involved in developing, implementing, and managing carshare operations and member services throughout the United States over the last six years. In her current role, her primary focus has been on the strategic development, deployment, management, and expansion of Míocar's electric vehicle carsharing program available in Richmond, Stockton, Tracy, Tulare County, and Kern County. As someone who grew up in Orosi, an unincorporated community where Míocar originally launched, Gloria has seen the impact that a mobility program like Míocar has had in her community.



Dr. Gregory Macfarlane

Assistant Professor
Brigham Young University

Gregory S. Macfarlane is an accomplished transportation researcher and educator specializing in travel demand modeling, data-driven transportation planning, and urban mobility analysis. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering at Brigham Young University. His research integrates advanced statistical and econometric methods to enhance transportation system efficiency, with a focus on multimodal networks, accessibility, and emerging mobility technologies. He is an alumnus of BYU and Georgia Tech.



Dr. Greg Erhardt

Associate Professor
University of Kentucky

Greg Erhardt is a Raymond-Blythe Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Kentucky, a Hans Fischer Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Technical University of Munich, and a Senior Advisor to Bay Area Metro. He brings more than 20 years of experience in both research and practice developing and applying metropolitan and statewide travel demand models, including 8 years in California.

SESSION SPEAKERS

Hunter Owens

Research Data Manager

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Hunter is a Public Sector Technologist with significant expertise in Data Science, Open Data/Data Sharing, Machine Learning, and bringing data to a variety of public sector organizations. Experience building multi city collaborations around open source / open data, extensive community engagement, and data driven policy implementation. Currently Hunter is the Research Data Manager at CalSTA.



Dr. Jacob Yan

Assistant Professor, Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering

University of Florida

Dr. Xiang (Jacob) Yan is an Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Florida. His research centers on the innovative and thoughtful application of data science and artificial intelligence make transportation more equitable and sustainable. Bridging transportation engineering, data science, and urban planning, He takes an interdisciplinary approach to transportation research that connects technological innovations with community needs. He works closely with public agencies and industry partners to develop intelligent decision-support tools that can help them better plan for and manage public transit systems and new mobility services.



Dr. Jarice Rodriguez

Interim Chief of Paratransit Operations

Miami-Dade County Dept of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

Ms. Jarice Rodriguez is the Interim Chief of Paratransit Operations at the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), where she leads the County's Paratransit Service Program and is spearheading the modernization of its supporting software infrastructure and program. Her leadership focuses on improving operational efficiency, enhancing service delivery and customers' experience through emerging technologies, and expanding equitable mobility options for all residents. With a strong foundation in transportation engineering and innovation, Ms. Rodriguez played a pivotal role in DTPW's Office of Innovation and Mobility Services where she led transformative projects, including the launch of Miami-Dade's microtransit program and the region's first autonomous microtransit service. She has managed key regional efforts such as the County's Shared Mobility and Connected & Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Plans. Currently, she is leading the USDOT FY22 SMART Grant pilot project, focused on testing SMART Loading Zones to improve curbside management. Her work on the Knight Foundation AV initiative has contributed to the design and deployment of AV pilots throughout the county. Prior to her tenure at Miami-Dade County, Ms. Rodriguez was a faculty member at Florida Atlantic University, where she taught transportation engineering and conducted research on climate change and transportation resiliency. She also worked with the City of Miami, managing the Trolley system, the On-Demand Transportation Program for seniors, and other multimodal projects. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), completing Master's and Doctoral degrees in Transportation Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).



Javad Esmailpour

PhD candidate in Civil Engineering

University of Calgary

Javad Esmailpour is a PhD candidate in Civil Engineering at the University of Calgary, specializing in public transit systems and transportation analytics. His research focuses on network-level transit ridership estimation using innovative approaches in sparse and incomplete data environments, aiming to improve service planning and operational efficiency.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Jerome Qiriaz

Planner

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA)

Jerome Qiriaz currently works as a planner with HTA, a joint powers agency operating multiple fixed-route and on-demand transit systems in Humboldt County, California. Along with day-to-day planning and operations tasks, Jerome supports HTA's efforts as a lead implementing agency for the region's aggressive VMT reduction targets, and leads HTA's transition to a zero emission hydrogen fleet. Prior to their position at HTA, Jerome worked as a Senior Research Engineer with the Schatz Energy Research Center as lead on low carbon transportation projects, and a Program Specialist with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority as lead on climate action planning and low carbon transportation planning. They currently serve on the Humboldt County Planning Commission, and previously served on the California Energy Commission Advisory Committee for the Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority Community Advisory Committee.



Joanna Xiao (MODERATOR)

System Planning Branch Chief

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Joanna Xiao is a long-time transit enthusiast and has worked in transit at both the local and state level. She is particularly interested in transit funding and policy, and ensuring transit is accessible for all users. Joanna holds a Masters in Urban Planning, specializing in Transportation Planning, from McGill University. Previously, she worked at the City of Ottawa Transit Services, supporting the O-Train Line 1 Rail Expansion while maintaining transit operational responsibilities. At Caltrans, she worked at District 5, San Luis Obispo, as the District Transit Coordinator, where she devised several outreach initiatives to enhance partner communication, and integrated transit improvements into existing State programs and systems. Joanna currently works at District 12, Orange County, as the System Planning Branch Chief within the Office of Transportation Planning.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Dr. Joseph Schwieterman

Director

Chaddick Institute at DePaul University

Dr. Joseph Schwieterman is a Professor in the School of Public Service at DePaul University and the director of the university's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, which studies public policy, transportation, and urban planning. Dr. Schwieterman is a past president of the Transportation Research Forum, an international organization founded in 1958 and having chapters in five cities. He authors the annual Outlook for the Intercity Bus Industry report, released each January, and is editor of the Intercity Bus E-News, an online newsletter.



John Andoh

Transit General Manager

Redding Area Bus Authority

John Andoh is an enthusiastic transit professional with twenty-four years of experience in the public transit industry. John presently serves as the Transit General Manager for the Redding Area Bus Authority in Redding, CA and also serves as a part time transit manager for the Cities of Burlington, NC, Escalon, CA, Lathrop, CA and Ripon CA. Public transit has been a true passion of John since he was 5 years old. John's experience spans small urban, large urban, and rural transit systems with the implementation, planning, and management, strategic planning and providing leadership of public transit and mobility based programs to address the transportation needs of the communities by innovating transit agencies to be mobility agencies and is a very innovative, creative and outside the box thinker.



Dr. Karen Philbrick

Executive Director

Mineta Transportation Institute

Karen Philbrick is the executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at San José State University. Dr. Philbrick leads two competitively selected multi-university consortia: the California State University Transportation Consortium (CSUTC), which unifies the surface transportation research and workforce development efforts of the 23-campus California State University system, and the Climate Change and Extreme Events Training and Research (CCEETR) Program funded by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Prior to joining MTI, Dr. Philbrick shaped the field of transportation in a variety of roles, including as assistant director of the National Center for Intermodal Transportation at the University of Denver. She has been appointed four times by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation (Secretaries LaHood, Foxx, Chao, and Buttigieg) to sit on the USDOT Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) where she chaired the FTA Administrator's Tasking 14-02, which identified key elements of a safety management system approach to fatigue management.

Dr. Philbrick has received many prestigious awards for her leadership excellence and outstanding contributions to her field. A select few include the CUTC Administrative Leadership award, being named a "Woman Who Moves the Nation" by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and, 1 of the 100 Women of Influence in Silicon Valley by the Silicon Valley Business Journal, and recognition by the YWCA Silicon Valley with a Tribute to Women Award for her contributions to the field of transportation. In 2023 the Silicon Valley Business Journal release.



Kevin Chambers

Principal Consultant

Full Path Transit Technology

Since 2000, Kevin Chambers has been helping public agencies and nonprofits ensure their technology investments effectively serve their missions. From 2010 to 2017, he led technology innovation at Ride Connection, a Portland-area industry leader in providing mobility options to older adults and people with disabilities. He now consults as principal of Full Path Transit Technology, focusing on technology at the intersection of mobility, human services, and healthcare. In work that spans software development, project management, and strategic planning, he leverages bilingualism, cross-cultural experience, and systems thinking to help communities overcome barriers to the appropriate and effective use of technology.



Mariel Kirschen

Project Manager I
HNTB

Mariel Kirschen is a project manager at HNTB supporting Sound Transit's major capital expansion program and evaluating operational improvements that improve quality of life for passengers. Raised in a railroad suburb outside of Philadelphia, she appreciated the value of transit in connecting people to jobs, education, and services at a young age while riding SEPTA commuter rail. This early insight has shaped her lifelong commitment to expanding access to frequent, reliable, and affordable transit.

Mariel holds a Master of City Planning from University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, and Bachelor of Arts from American University in Washington, D.C. She brings over eight years of experience working with transit agencies of all sizes to create equitable public transportation systems through service expansion, performance management, and fares. Mariel is the primary author of TCRP Research Report 237: Evaluation Framework for Fare Free Transit, a resource for transit agencies to assess the benefits and trade-offs of fare-free service. She is a graduate of the APTA Emerging Leaders Program and serves as Chair of the WTS Puget Sound Chapter DEI Committee.

Mariel lives in Seattle, WA, with her husband and 3 pets. In her spare time, she loves gardening, cooking, and starting home improvement projects.



Dr. Michael Hyland

Associate Professor
University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Michael Hyland is an Associate Professor at UCI, in the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) department. He is also an affiliate of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Irvine. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in CEE. His research focuses on modeling and analysis techniques to support the planning, design, and operation of multi-modal transportation systems. He employs these modeling and analysis techniques to understand the potential implications of transportation innovations on society. Dr. Hyland is an Associate Editor for Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice and an Early Career Editorial Advisory Board member for Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Moses Stites

General Manager

Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA)

Moses Stites is the General Manager of FCRTA. He oversees the administration and operations of both fixed route and demand response services for 13 incorporated cities and 29 unincorporated communities in Fresno County with a fleet of 115 vehicles and an annual budget of \$9-\$10 million. Since his time with FCRTA, he and his staff have succeeded in replacing over 50% of the fleet with alternative fuel vehicles with a goal of 100% ZEV fleet by 2025.



Nina Stocker

Travel Washington Program Manager

Washington State Department of Transportation

Nina Stocker serves as the Program Manager for the Travel Washington Intercity Bus Program within the Public Transportation Division at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Each program and project supported by the division builds on, makes safe, and sustains Washington's integrated multimodal transportation system. For the past six years Nina has focused her efforts on improving rural-to-urban mobility and promoting transportation equity through increasing access to intercity bus service for the diverse communities across the state of Washington. Holding undergraduate and graduate degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Administration, Nina Stocker is a nationally recognized expert in state managed intercity bus systems and loves connecting people – literally and figuratively – across Washington and beyond.



Dr. Pruthvi Manjunatha

Research Assistant Professor and I-STREET Manager

University of Florida

Pruthvi Manjunatha is the I-STREET Living Lab Manager and a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering. Dr. Manjunatha has 10 years of experience in transportation engineering, which includes teaching, research and working in the industry. His experience has been in Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) infrastructure, Human Factors and Driver Behavior, Traffic Simulation, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), traffic operations and data management.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Rachel Heckl

Executive Director

Miocar

Rachel's experience has focused on supporting business development and organizational growth for shared mobility models. Rachel has successfully replicated car sharing, bike sharing and other mobility networks across the country. Rachel is leading Mobility Development's technical assistance to Valley Go and Green Raiteros, two non-profit transportation systems in California's San Joaquin Valley. Rachel has extensive experience in establishing partnerships with community-based organizations, cities, and transit agencies in service to the mobility networks under development. Rachel recently concluded a \$400,000 study for New York State aimed at incubating shared mobility models across Upstate NY, which led to over \$4M in funds for systems in Rochester, Niagara Falls and the NY Capital Region. In addition to supporting shared mobility projects directly, Rachel has experience with the financing of these models in both the mobility and community development sectors, having led the \$14 million redevelopment of a historic building into a social enterprise and arts incubator. Rachel has been working in shared mobility for seven years.



Renee Ray

Senior Director of Strategic Growth

Hayden AI

Renee Autumn Ray has worked with transportation technology and policy issues at all levels of government for over 15 years. She is the Senior Director of Strategic Growth at Hayden AI, the global leader in mobile bus enforcement systems, and recently published the report *Understanding AI and Transportation* with the Eno Center. Renee holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

SESSION SPEAKERS



Dr. Reza Mahmoudi

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Toronto

Reza Mahmoudi is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto. He holds a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the University of Calgary and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from Isfahan University of Technology. His expertise spans Operations Research, Data Analytics, Transportation Planning, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management.

He has authored more than 30 published and revised & resubmitted papers. His recent work focuses on applying AI- and data-driven optimization techniques to shared mobility and integrating flexible-route transit with multi-modal fixed-route networks. His broader research interests include complex systems modeling, shared mobility and microtransit, logistics, first- and last-mile delivery, performance evaluation and improvement, intelligent transportation systems, and large-scale multi-modal network design.



Zach Trogdon

Chief of Public Transportation

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Zach Trogdon has over 20 years of public sector management experience. Prior to coming to DRPT as the Chief of Public Transportation, he was most recently the Executive Director for the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority. Prior to that Zach served in local government management in North Carolina and Virginia, specifically in Charles City County, VA (birthplace of two presidents), Boiling Springs, NC (birthplace of Earl Scruggs and home to Gardner-Webb University) and Wilkesboro, NC (home to Merlefest and Lowe's Hardware).



Dr. Zhenhau Chen

Associate Professor

Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University (OSU)

Zhenhua is an associate professor in City and Regional Planning (CRP) at the Knowlton School of Architecture at OSU. His research interest includes infrastructure planning and policy, regional science, risk and resilience, and big data analytics. He has a strong background in economic impact assessments of infrastructure investment, disasters and resilience using Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models. He is one of the lead developers of the Economic Consequence Analysis Tool, an Excel-VBA software that is intended for policymakers and analysts who need quick estimates of the economic impact of numerous threats, including terrorism, natural disasters, and technological accidents.

Zhenhua has published five books, including *Chinese Railways in the Era of High Speed* (Emerald, 2015), *Economic Consequence Analysis of Disasters: The E-CAT Software Tool* (Springer, 2017), *Big Data for Regional Science* (Routledge, 2017), *High-Speed Rail and China's New Economic Geography* (Edward Elgar, 2019), and *Development Studies in Regional Science: Essays in Honor of Kingsley E. Haynes* (Springer, 2020). His recent research has been published on numerous peer-reviewed journals, such as *Transportation Research Part A*, *Transportation Research Part D*, *Transport Reviews*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, *Transportation*, *Transport Policy*, *Journal and Transport and Land Use*, *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, *Land Use Policy*, *Annals of Regional Science*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *Computer Environment and Urban Systems*, *Economic Systems Research*, *European Planning Studies* and *Economic Development Quarterly*.

He is a guest-editor of *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, and *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*. He is also a research fellow at the National Center of Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California, and the Risk Institute at OSU. He received his PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University, a MA in Regional Economics from Shenzhen University in China and a BA in Management from the University of Electronic and Science and Technology of China.

SESSION MODERATORS



Brendon Hemily

Senior Advisor

Transit Analytics Lab (TAL) of the University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute

Dr. Brendon Hemily serves as Senior Advisor for TAL of the University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute. He is an independent consultant with 38 years of experience of working with the transit industry in both Canada and the U.S.A. specializing in transit policy, planning, management, and technology issues. He provided support to USDOT from 2007 to 2018 related to Transit ITS, use of ITS data and mobility on demand, and worked earlier in his career for 15 years at the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), where he was responsible for all research and technical activities. He is past Chair and Emeritus Member of Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Public Transportation Planning and Development Committee and is the current Chair of TRB's Public Transportation Group.



Chad Riding

Senior Transportation Planner, Division of Planning & Modal Program Management
Caltrans

Chad Riding is a Senior Transportation Planner at the Caltrans in its Division of Planning and Modal Programs Management with 14 years of planning experience at Caltrans. Chad works on strategic management, legislative coordination, and research coordination for Caltrans. A chief focus of his work is building better connections in the planning practitioner and researcher communities. Chad's interests in planning are in finding ways to bring diverse groups of stakeholders together and find common ground to implement change. Chad has a Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida.



Greg Newmark

Associate Professor

Graduate Built Environment at Morgan State University

Gregory Newmark is an Associate Professor of Graduate Built Environment at Morgan State University and an Instructor of Regional & Community Planning department at Kansas State University. He is particularly interested in the provision and management of public transit services (and used to work at Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority). Dr. Newmark's research emphasizes the innovative use of data to understand public transportation as well as Transportation Planning, Travel Behavior, Sustainability, Urban Data Analysis and the collection of those data. He is working with the Transportation Secure Data Center (TSDC) to build an archive of on-board survey data from transit systems across the country.



Dr. Hilary Nixon

Deputy Executive Director

Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI)

Dr. Hilary Nixon has served as Deputy Executive Director for MTI since 2018. Previously, she served as MTI's Director of Research and Technology Transfer. Nixon is an active researcher and educator specializing in transportation and environmental planning and policy. Her research focuses primarily on the factors that influence pro-environmental behavior, transportation finance, and the relationship between transportation and the environment. She has served as Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or project team member on over 50 research grants totaling over \$9.4 million.

In her roles at MTI, Nixon led or collaborated in the publication of 70 research reports and articles on a wide variety of critical transportation issues, including sustainability, livability, economic impacts of public transportation, women's representation in the field, and more. Nixon's individual research has been published in highly-ranked international and peer-reviewed transportation and environment journals such as the *Journal of Sustainability Education*, the *Journal of Public Transportation*, the *Journal of Environmental Management*, the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, and many others.

Prior to joining MTI, Nixon spent 12 years as faculty in the Department of Urban & Regional Planning at San José State University (SJSU), where she held positions as Graduate Advisor, Associate Chair, and Department Chair. Nixon has been recognized with numerous awards and commendations, including Advisor of the Year in 2015, Outstanding Advisor Award in 2009, and both the Award for Academic Excellence and the Award for Planning Achievement by the American Planning Association 2008.

Since 2018, Nixon has served as Director of the Research and Education Division, of the American Road & Transportation Builders' Association. A strong proponent of advancing women in academia, research, and transportation, Nixon regularly advocates for women's interests in her professional service roles. She served as Vice President of the Faculty Women's Interest Group (FWIG) of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning from 2013-2015 and currently serves as chair of the Transportation Research Board AME20 Standing Committee on Women and Gender in Transportation.



Dr. Mina Rezaei

Research & Policy Program Manager
Caltrans

Dr. Mina Rezaei is a research and policy program manager at Caltrans. She holds a PhD in Geography from University of California, Davis, where her dissertation focused on spatial perspectives in designing virtual place-based technological platforms. Her publications explore the representations of cities in cinema and literature, as well as the analysis of technological platforms through a spatial lens. Outside of work, she enjoys painting, creative projects, and storytelling.

The Symposium is convened by a partnership between APTA, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), University of Florida Transportation Institute, UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, the Mineta Transportation Institute, and the Safety and Mobility Advancements Regional Transportation and Economics Research (SMARTER) Center at Morgan State. Organizing Committee members:

- Chad Riding, Kevin Spiker, Connor Campbell, Mina Rezaei, Keith Sirisack, Caltrans
- Dr. Jacob Yan & Xilei Zhao, University of Florida
- Brendon Hemily, Public Transportation Consultant
- Dr. Hilary Nixon, Mineta Transportation Institute
- Kari Watkins, UC Davis
- Greg Newmark, Morgan State University
- Art Guzzetti, APTA
- Roderick Bailey, Mississippi DOT
- John Andoh, City of Redding, CA

Questions? Contact the following:

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